



Luther Memorial Church

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Rise up, O Saints of God!



Luther Memorial Church
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The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor
The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor
Amy Grunewald Mattison, Visitation Minister
Sarah Brinkman, Office Coordinator
Brittany Crawford, Finance Assistant
Brian Imhoff, Facilities Manager
Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music
Margaret Szczykutowicz, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
Suelyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry
Robin Wagner, Director of Communication
Dan Zerger, Custodian

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AGENDA

118th Annual Meeting of the Congregation of
Luther Memorial Church, Madison, Wisconsin

February 8, 2026 | 9 am

- I. Call to Order: Mary Jean Huston, President
- II. Invocation
- III. Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. 117th Annual Meeting February 9, 2025
 - b. Special Congregational Meeting September 14, 2025
- V. Year in Review
- VI. Hymn
- VII. Approval of 2026 Budget
- VIII. Election of 2026 Council Members and Synod Assembly Representatives
- IX. Other Business
- X. Adjournment with Prayer

LETTER FROM THE PASTORS

*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually, we are members of one another.*

Romans 12:5

In the middle of Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he focusses on the practical outworking of faith, emphasizing transformed living, loving one's enemies, holy conduct, renewal of the mind and the use of our gifts including love, forgiveness and patience.

The life and unity of the church, the body of Christ, has been an important aspect of our past year together.

Campus Pastor Preston Fields began his work at Lutheran Campus Ministry early this past year. We continue to build connections and mutual ministry together and are embarking on a shared adult catechumenate for those UW students who are interested in exploring the faith, and either being baptized as adults or adult confirmation. We are excited about the direction this partnership is taking. A sign of the unity of the body of Christ.

Juan Carlos Cabrera continues to faithfully lead the ministry at Parroquia Luterana Santa María while finishing his seminary studies. We look forward to his anticipated ordination this summer. Luther Memorial and Santa María continue to develop new ways to partner together—joint mission trips to our sister congregation in Puerto Rico, joint bilingual worship and fellowship and ongoing engagement of members from both congregations. A sign of the unity of the body of Christ.

Staff. While staff changes are a normal part of any organization, we have been blessed with a number of staff who have served this congregation for over ten years. The faithful care and work of all the staff makes it a delight to work here. The staff include, in order of longevity: Laurie Swimm (archivist), Suelyn Swiggum (director of shared ministry), Dan Zerger

(custodian), Robin Wagner (director of communication), Sarah Brinkman (office coordinator), Andrew Schaeffer (director of music), Amy Grunewald Mattison (visitation minister), Margaret Szczykutowicz (youth and family ministry coordinator), Brittany Crawford (finance assistant) and Brian Imhoff (facilities manager).

Finally, we thank you, our dear church family, who faithfully serve in the life and work of Luther Memorial, and embody Christ's love and unity.

The Rev. Brad Pohlman and
the Rev. John Worzala Dumke



VISITATION MINISTER



Visitation Minister Amy
Grunewald Mattison

During the month of January, the kindergarten–first grade Sunday school class is all about the early life of Jesus: the visit of the magi, dedication at the temple, the pre-teen return to the temple, his baptism by John. One of the stories we share each year is Anna and Simeon in the temple.

I pull off the shelf a replica of the temple in Jerusalem, crafted by Bob Edwards. There are just a few figures in the story, two of whom have seen many trips around the sun, the other three, a young family.

Anna and Simeon stand out to the children: their age, their dependence on others, their devotion to the temple and their surprise and joy at meeting Jesus. Taking Jesus in his arms, Simeon cries out that this is the one, that this child is God's salvation for all, and Simeon can now go in peace. Anna, an octogenarian, comes out at that moment and tells the people at the temple that this child is the redemption they have all been waiting for.

During this lesson I connect some of our youngest congregation members with some of our oldest. I talk about the people I visit and the children make cards for them. I tell them a few stories about their lives and how they made an impact at our church.

This year, I shared with them that we have three members who were born in 1926. That's a hundred years ago! They were impressed. And wanted to make their cards straight away. Then one child said to me with a look of equal astonishment that he knew someone born in 2015. And he was... NINE! While the math is a little off, it was his impression that knowing a nine year old was also really important. To a six year old, nine seems like a lifetime away.

That sense of time—that nine and 99 are equally impressive—is a gift we share in the church. That built on Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are subject not to a calendar but to an everlasting love that sees us through however many days we are granted, and as Luther reminds us, beyond. And for Anita, Elaine and Milli, they are coming up on 36,500 of them! I am continually humbled to be in this position of visitation minister and grateful to the generosity of our members to share their stories, lighten their burdens, and allow me to bring a little bit of our church into their homes.



MUSIC

New Organ Update

Much has occurred in the past year to prepare us for the imminent installation of our new Taylor & Boody organ.

On May 18, 2025, a farewell concert and reception was held to celebrate the long life of the 1966 Austin organ. The next day, Austin Organ Builders staff were on-site removing the organ, with the chassis, console and pipes being transported to Hartford, Conn., where it will be reused in a future project.

Also, during that time, organ builders Taylor & Boody were well on their way in constructing the new organ, including hand carving the wooden pipe shades. These carved decorations recall much of the original design of the reredos in the high altar and other design elements in our original neo-gothic Claude & Starck building design. The organ design subcommittee provided valuable insight into the design details, meeting online with the designers at Taylor & Boody.

In August we saw the first images of the keyboard and inlaid woodwork around the mechanical control system for the east organ case. By September 2025, we began to see the top third of the organ case along with pipes dry fitted into the casework. In November we saw the first set of photos showing

the color of the woodwork stain and how the overall finish will look on the organ.

The first half of our organ will arrive on Saturday, March 7. We invite you to join us that afternoon as we joyfully carry in the hundreds of pieces of our new organ and celebrate this milestone with a pizza party! The organ will be installed over the course of the following two weeks, and after Easter, “voicers” from Taylor & Boody will spend the next few months painstakingly adjusting and tuning each and every pipe for optimal sound in our nave. We anticipate the second half of the organ will arrive in spring 2027

with a series of dedicatory events to follow.

Not only will our new organ take our music ministry to new heights, but the handsome carvings and visual details will match the excellence found in the rest of the building. We can only hope that our forebears, who sacrificed so much to build our current building a century ago, would surely be proud of our efforts.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Gary Brown
Member of Organ Installation
Committee & Design Advisory
Subcommittee



BELONGING IN FAITH

Thank you to everyone in our congregation for your faithful participation in worship and for the many ways you give of your time and talents. Your presence, prayers and joyful singing enrich our shared worship, and your willingness to volunteer strengthens our ministries and outreach. Because of your commitment and generosity, our church continues to be a welcoming place of service, growth and love. We are deeply grateful for each of you and for the spirit of community you create.



CONNECTING FROM AFAR

Zoom morning prayer is a tradition that began during the pandemic and continues to grow. It's been a blessing to join together in faith, even across distances—as far as Uganda!—and to know that we are united in prayer.



IN 2025

An average of 242 people joined us each Sunday at in-person worship, with an additional 230 people viewing services online.

Nearly 600 people celebrated Christmas with us in person, with 152 attending via livestream.

Attendance for special Holy Week services was 463. We honored our risen Savior with 481 people at worship on Easter Sunday. An additional 415 people worshiped with us online during Holy Week and Easter.

In 2025, we shared 13,376 views of our worship services throughout the world via YouTube. More than 780 followers regularly connect with us on Facebook.

Into membership we celebrated 12 adult and child baptisms and 16 affirmations of faith or transfers.

Our music ministry welcomed around 50 audience guests each Wednesday for weekly Music at Midday recitals.

Many participants made Luther Memorial a part of their daily spiritual practice through morning prayer on Zoom, from Washington state to Uganda.

During the last year, there were more than 22,000 pageviews by online visitors to our website. The Keep Food Pantry generated more than 1,700 pageviews.

YOUR GENEROUS HEARTS

In 2025, your benevolence touched the lives of people in need in our community and beyond. Here are some shining examples:

Christmas Gifts for Transitional Families	\$ 3,584
ELCA Disaster Response	\$ 500
ELCA World Hunger	\$ 4,796
Global Refuge	\$ 500
Lutheran World Relief kits	\$ 805
Mission trips	\$ 7,640
Nehemiah Center/FOSTER (backpacks)	\$ 1,245
Noisy offering (Sunday school collection)	
New pipe organ	\$ 243
Lutheran Social Services refugee settlement	\$ 411
Off the Square Club	\$ 862
Parroquia Santa María	\$ 2,000
Pastors' Discretionary Fund	\$ 13,755
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin	\$ 35,000
The Keep Food Pantry	\$ 24,992
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$ 2,869

LM Foundation Mission Grants

The Keep Food Pantry	\$ 3,000
Midvale Refugee Resettlement Partnership	\$ 3,000
San Pablo, Puerto Rico (March mission trip)	\$ 3,000
Seminary (Seminarian Chris Beaver)	\$ 500
Puerto Rico Lutheran student center	\$ 2,000
Second Harvest food bank	\$ 1,000
Lutheran World Relief (International aid)	\$ 2,000
Lutheran Disaster Response (US domestic aid)	\$ 1,000
Jail Ministry (Ecumenical Madison area ministry)	\$ 500
Pastor's discretionary fund	\$ 591

IN 2025

21 families—more than 87 individuals—received gifts through our Christmas gifts program. More than \$3,584 in cash donations was given.

We filled four backpacks with donated school supplies and contributed \$1,245 toward supplies for many more local students through the Nehemiah Center. Each child will also received a \$100 gift card toward school clothes and shoes, and additional funds will be donated to FOSTER of Dane County to share with more students in need!

We created 80 personal and baby care kits for distribution by Lutheran World Relief for people in need around the world.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Luther Memorial is home to about 80 young people. To serve this special group, the church offers nursery care, elementary Sunday school, middle school confirmation, middle and high school youth groups, children's choir and a variety of social and service opportunities for both students and their families. In 2025, the high school youth group traveled to Puerto Rico and expanded to weekly meetings with Lutheran Campus Ministry intern Corbin Slinde. Margaret Szczykutowicz, youth & family ministry coordinator, continues to work with a team of dedicated volunteers to provide a safe and supportive environment for young people to grow their faith and relationships within the LM community.



CONFIRMATION

We congratulate our dynamic 2025 confirmation class! As they embark on this spiritual journey, we hope they continue to grow in wisdom, love and grace, and we pray their confirmation will be a source of strength and inspiration as they navigate the path of faith ahead.



PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

During spring break, youth and adults from Luther Memorial and Santa Maria traveled to Puerto Rico to continue to grow our partnership with three churches: Iglesia Evangelica Luterana San Pablo, Nuestra Casa para Todos and Transfiguracion. All three are members of the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Sinodo del Caribe (Caribbean Synod-ELCA). Our group helped start renovations of the kitchen at Nuestra Casa para Todos, which is where the meals for the campus ministry are prepared. We also helped repair, paint and seal the roof of a parishioner of Transfiguracion, which had been in dire need of repairs. We also did a bit of painting at our sister parish San Pablo, and got to see old friends. The trip wasn't all work—it was also a time to get to know the island and its people. From the heights of El Yunque National Forest, down to the bioluminescent bay of Fajardo, from *la playa* (the beach) to playing games back at the Campamento Luterano (Lutheran outdoor camp), it was an amazing time of prayer, play and labor in the name of Christ.



SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Mission Statement

Luther Memorial's Social Justice Initiative, a Christ-Centered ministry, transforms awareness about racial and gender justice, poverty, equity, and oppression, through learning, dialogue, and community collaboration.

In 2025, we began a weekly information update email to interested recipients to make them aware of various social justice issues in Wisconsin and the nation, and offer opportunities to make their voices heard. We held three Sunday Forums on the topics of poverty: immigration, awareness and faithful response, and racial disparity in housing. We organized LM members attending two local protest marches. We coordinated a back-to-school backpack project for the FOSTER program of Dane County, filling four backpacks, additional backpacks, school supplies and raising over \$1,000 in donations. We provided a reading list of social justice books, placed some in the LM library and updated the resource list on our LM webpage. We promoted "Black History for a New Day" courses through the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development.



THE KEEP

The Keep, located on the lowest level of the east education wing, hosts both The Keep Food Pantry and three UW student groups: BundleUp, The Artisan Collective and the Badger Caring Closet. Together these three groups address a number of key needs both in and around campus and around the globe. Our food pantry continues to serve 140–200 shoppers each week, providing food to almost 300 people. Special thanks to co-chairs Barb Luedke and Sue Bangert and our new co-chairs for 2026, Gary Brown and Paul Hayes.



LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY

This year brought meaningful growth for Lutheran Campus Ministry–Madison. The foundation was already there. What unfolded over the past year was an expansion of trust, participation, and reach as more students found their way into community and leadership.

Weekly gatherings anchored the life of the ministry, including “Waffle Wednesday” with frequent volunteer Rev. Joel “Granpa Pastor” Xavier, Thursday worship and dinner, and weekday coffee and snacks.

Worship this year explored the depth and breadth of Lutheran theology, thought, and identity. Services focused on themes such as *Sola Scriptura*, Michael and All Angels, Holy Cross Day, and even a Kierkegaard-inspired worship service that invited students into questions of faith, doubt, and commitment. We also held Holden Evening Prayer and a student-led Bible study on wisdom literature.

Student leadership and engagement continued to deepen through intern-led activities and community events.



PARROQUIA LUTERANA SANTA MARIA

The year 2025 brought real challenges for everyone, especially for Latino communities like ours. Yet throughout these moments, the presence of God and the steadfast support of the Luther Memorial community have been a source of light, strength and renewed hope in every gathering. These challenges have invited us to deepen our faith, to refine it and to live our mission with greater clarity and purpose.

As a sign of this living faith, Santa María accompanied 15 youth as they confirmed their faith, celebrated our first LGBTQ wedding and shared with you our beloved annual bilingual worship service. To close the year with joy, our December celebrations included six nights of Las Posadas, filled with prayer, music and deep community.

Thank you, Luther Memorial, for the genuine care you show to our community.

From the heart, your support feels like a restoring embrace. Time and again, first-time visitors share the same words as they step into the sanctuary: “There is peace here.”



**Luther Memorial Church
117th Annual Congregational Meeting
February 9, 2025-draft**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Mary Jean Huston at 10:55am.

- Mary Jean Huston announced that we have a quorum.
- Beth Bray stated 95 people in attendance.
- Huston asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were offered.

II. Invocation

The opening prayer was provided by Laura Guse.

III. Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian

Tellers: Beth Bray and Barb Hughes

Parliamentarian: Sue Bangert

Microphone runner: John Xavier

IV. Approval of Minutes

116th Annual Meeting, February 11, 2024

Motion (Sue Bangert/Lynn Washington) to approve the minutes.

Discussion: None

Amendments: None

Motion approved by voice vote.

Special Congregational Meeting, June 16, 2024

Motion (John Pleuss/Barb Hughes) to approve the minutes.

Discussion: None

Amendments: None

Motion approved by voice vote.

V. Year in Review

Pr Brad spoke about stewardship. Some highlights include:

- Financial and environmental stewardship shaped the year.
- Larger than average increase in giving; financial stewardship spread across congregation (many donors, not just a few big ones).
- Capital campaign kicked off on July 1, 2024. Goals: reduce mortgage, work on balcony, new organ, support Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) and Parroquia Santa Maria (PSM). One-sixth of the way through, we have received one-third of the campaign goal.
- Diversity of location of members of the congregation and attendance: morning prayer and livestreams attended by numerous people from out of state; gifts received from many out of state members/attendees.
- Environment stewardship: Installation of solar panels; conversion of nave lighting to LED, work on HVAC system to make it more efficient.

Mary Jean Huston gave an oral tour of the past year at LM. Some highlights include:

- Three services every weekend (including PSM); Music at Midday concerts; thank you to volunteers supporting online streaming of services and other church events.

- Keep Food Pantry; serves over 15,000 people every year.
- Social Justice Ministry, who've added books to LM's library and offer courses, see info on LM's website.
- Triangle community ministry: 4 times a year 12 volunteers from LM and PSM provide dinner to 50 people and dine with residents.
- Partnership with PSM, including shared mission trip to Puerto Rico and bilingual services.
- Staffing changes: Amy Grunewald Mattison is the new visitation minister after Pr. Rebecca Ninke left; Margaret Szczykutowicz replaced Abby Gandrud (graduated) as Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator; Amy and Margaret leading Women's Group after Lisa Nelson left position.
- LCM: Thank you to Pr John for leading LCM during loan period; Pr Preston's installation on February 13, 2025, congregation invited; Pr Brad and Mary Jean Huston serve on LCM's board, will be exploring future of current building and partnership between LCM and LM this year.

VI. Hymn

Andrew Schaeffer led the assembly in song. The congregation sang "O God of Mercy, God of Light."

VII. Approval of Capital Expenditure

See page 23 of the Annual Report.

The Congregation Council is recommending approval of the following motion:

Motion (from Council): That the congregation approve capital expenditures for the following:

- 1) Major electrical panel upgrade for the east education wing.
- 2) Upgrades to the existing sacristy plus a remodel of the current bell choir room to a vesting sacristy.
- 3) ADA updates and improvements to the back double doors of the church. Total cost not to exceed \$250,000.

Background. Given that Vogel construction plus related sub-vendors (HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing) will be here starting in June for the major rear balcony work, it seemed wise to the council to add on additional needed projects in such a way that we will see some cost savings by having Vogel and related vendors work on those projects at the same time. Full bids for this proposed work have not yet been received but is anticipated to be much less than the not-to-exceed cost in the motion above.

Discussion:

- Q: Is there a priority among the above three bullet points? A: The hope is to do all three this summer.
- Special meeting for sacristans to follow approval to discuss layout of sacristy.
- A: What happens to the bell choir room? A: Move bell choir into current youth room, youth room moved to L40.
- Q: Any other repairs needed for L40 before youth group moves? A: Room is fine, confirmation kids wrote a list of wishes, possible future fundraising to fulfill them.
- Q: Where is funding coming from? A: Building fund, some from special gifts. Not capital campaign.

- Q: Where did the 250k amount come from? A: Best guess and double it. We have a quote for the electrical panel work from 2017 to help with estimating.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Approval of Constitutional Amendment

See page 23 of the Annual Report.

The Congregation Council is recommending the following amendment to the Constitution of Luther Memorial Church.

Motion (from Council): That the congregation of Luther Memorial amend C12.05.d as follows:

For items that are not included in the approved annual budget, the Congregation Council may authorize additional spending up to a total value of ~~\$50,000~~ **\$85,000**. Additional expenditures not included in the annual budget and exceeding ~~\$50,000~~ **\$85,000** must be authorized by a meeting of this congregation.

Background:

The amount listed in C12.05.d has been the same since 2002. Given inflation over the past 24 years, it seemed appropriate to the Governance Committee and the Council to increase this amount to reflect inflation over the past two decades. The proposed financial number is based on a calculation for long term inflation from 2002 to 2024.

Procedure:

As this is a constitutional amendment, it will require two votes. The first vote will occur at the annual meeting and can include changes. If approved by the congregation by majority vote, it would then come before the congregation at a later congregational meeting where it would need to be approved by a 2/3 majority vote.

Discussion:

- Q: Does it make sense to instead increase the amount yearly adjusted to inflation? A: Recommendation made to council to review this figure regularly (every 5 years).
- Q: Is every 5 years enough given current economic conditions? A: Council should consider every 5 years or as needed.
- Q: What kinds of things does this cover, is current limit actually restrictive? A: Recently bumping against limit on projects like LCM roof (LM's portion under \$50,000, total quote over \$50,000, debate on whether to call congregational meeting). Increasingly, \$50,000 is not enough to cover smaller projects (as opposed to large items that the congregation should weigh in on).
- Q: Is this an annual or per incident total? A: Current interpretation is per incident, budget includes \$40,000 repair budget, so this amount comes into consideration after that \$40,000 is exhausted.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. Approval of 2025 Budget

Mary Jean Huston thanked the Administration and Finance Committee, Treasurer Bill Hunnex, and the Congregational Council for preparing the 2025 budget for today's meeting.

Motion: Mary Jean Huston noted that the Administration and Finance Committee and the Council have moved to approve the 2025 budget.

Pastor Brad Pohlman gave an overview of the proposed budget (pages 32–33 of the Annual Report).

Discussion:

Q: Who installed solar panels? A: Spectrum solar.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Xa. Election of 2025 Council Members and Synod Assembly Representatives

Recognize outgoing council member, Barb Hughes. Thank you for your generosity in time of service to the congregation.

2025-2028 Nominees:

- Margaret Miner for a new 3-year term
- George Alexander for a second 3-year term
- Beth Bray for a second 3-year term
- Phil Schoech for a second 3-year term
- Panka McGuire for a second 1-year young-adult term (2025-2026).

President Huston asked for any additional nominations (repeated 3 times).

None

Motion (Eric Pettersen/Michael Bradley) to close the nominations and elect the slate. **Motion approved.**

Xb. Synod Assembly Representatives

George Alexander and Phyllis Pleuss are nominated for 1-year Synod assembly representatives. The assembly is May 16-17, 2025 in Middleton.

Motion (Eric Pettersen/Sue Bangert) to close nominations. **Motion approved.**

President Huston called for nominations to fill the two alternate representative roles.

Alternates nominated from the floor: Lynn Washington and Cliff Haaland.

Motion (Eric Pettersen/Sandy Bertics) to close nominations for alternates. **Motion approved.**

Motion to appoint representatives and alternates: (John Pleuss/Laura Conger). **Motion approved.**

XI. Other Business

- None

Other Announcements:

- Sign-ups for Mardi Gras, Soup suppers, Palm Sunday Bunch (instead of Easter brunch this year) are available.
- Social Justice Ministry representatives read their Mission Statement; they will be presenting at the March 2nd forum.
- Power lost to elevator during power outage, recognition of Keep Food Pantry volunteers who had to carry 3000 lbs of food downstairs.
- Leipzig Boys choir performing at LM, please plan to attend.

XII. Adjournment with Prayer

Motion to adjourn (Michael Bradley/Barb Hughes). **The motion carried.** The meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

Closing Prayer offered by Kris Gruber-Twardy.

Minutes of the 117th Annual Congregational Meeting submitted by Panka McGuire, acting as substitute Secretary.

**Luther Memorial Church – Special Congregation Meeting
September 14, 2025**

Minutes

Mary Jean Huston called the meeting to order at 9:18 am.

Laura Guse offered the opening prayer.

Appointments for today's meeting:

Kris Gruber-Twardy, teller

John Xavier, teller

Sue Gaard, parliamentarian

Parliamentarian Sue Gaard announced that there is a quorum present.

Motion 1 (presented by the Luther Memorial Church Council): That Luther Memorial Church sign an addendum to the 2021 pipe organ contract with Taylor & Boody Organ builders for an additional cost of \$150,000. This is for an additional six sets of pipes and 3 additional stops.

Pr. Brad Pohlman provided the following background on this motion:

- Andrew will be joining us soon after the Sunday School opening session.
- We had originally trimmed the organ design plan to save some money, figuring that we could later add the extra pipes and stops back in. The contract already included façade pipes since they fill out the cabinet. The cost to add these back in now will be less than if included in the current installation work.
- The additional cost will be funded by donations already in hand.

Questions:

- A member asked about dates for installation. Pastor Pohlman responded.
 - Details about the organ will be shared at the Sunday forum on November 9.
 - Installation in the balcony will begin March 2.
- A member offered “Thank You” for posting Facebook pictures of progress on the organ build.

The vote was called. **Motion 1 carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Motion 2: That Luther Memorial Church approve changes to Constitutional Provision C12.05.d.

The Congregation voted to approve this change on February 9, 2025; this is the second vote necessary for a constitutional change.

President Mary Jean Huston provided background.

Discussion:

- None

The vote was called. **Motion 2 carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Motion 3: That Luther Memorial Church approve changes to bylaw C11.01.01.

President Mary Jean Huston provided background.

This is the first and only vote.

The changes update the roles of Council officers for accuracy on
Correction on voting: the bylaw change requires a 2/3 majority vote.

Discussion:

- Duties have been removed from the Vice President. Where are these being handled? Answer:
The Executive Committee has been actively covering these needs.

The vote was called. **Motion 3 carried by unanimous voice vote.**

Beth Bray provided the closing prayer.

Motion (Bradley/Washington) to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am.

Minutes submitted by George Alexander.

2026 COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

Current Council Members

Term (2024–2027)

Abigail Gaard

Bill Hunnex*

Mary Jean Huston*

Tom Nothbohm

Term (2025–2028)

George Alexander*

Beth Bray*

Margaret Miner

Phil Schoech

Outgoing Council Members

Kris Gruber-Twardy

Chris Uphoff

Nominees for 3-Year Term (2026–2029)

Laura Guse*

Panka McGuire

Dan Ruge

John Xavier*

Nominees for 1-Year Young-Adult Term (2026–2027)

Tamara Gruber

**Second 3-year term*

2026 Synod Assembly Representatives

Nominees for 1-Year Term (2026–2027)

George Alexander and Phyllis Pleuss

Alternate(s) – Nominations from the floor at annual meeting

2025 PARISH REGISTER

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Baptized members end of 2024.	690
Baptized members received during 2025	
Baptism: children.	9
Baptism: adults.	3
Affirmation of Faith	9
Transfer	7
Other sources/statistical adjustment.	0
Total members received this year.	28
Baptized members removed during 2025	
Death	7
Transfer	5
Other reasons/statistical adjustment	49
Total members removed this year	61
Baptized members end of 2025.	657
Total confirmed members end of 2025	585
Baptized youth confirmed in 2025.	6
Average Sunday worship attendance	
On-site (in person attendance)	242
Online (attendance via streaming)	230
Combined average on-site and online	472
Total number of people actively participating in the life of the congregation in 2025.	885

Rise Up, O Saints of God!



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro-claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick-ened by the Spir-it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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